

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
DANVILLE DIVISION**

**CRIMINAL MINUTES – INITIAL APPEARANCE AND GUILTY PLEA HEARING  
FOR CRIMINAL INFORMATION**

Case No.: 4:20CR00014

Date: 4/29/2020

**Defendant: Melik Z. Smith, custody**

**Counsel: Stephen Wills, David Damico - CJA**

TIME IN COURT: Time in court IA 3:04-3:15 11m; ARR/GP 3:15-4:28 1h 13m – total time 1h 24 m

PRESENT: JUDGE: Michael F. Urbanski, CUSDJ  
Deputy Clerk: Kristin Ayersman  
Court Reporter: JoRita Meyer  
U. S. Attorney: Ron Huber, Heather Carlton  
USPO: Mike Terry

**PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOMGOV VIDEO CONFERENCE** – the court finds it is in the interest of justice pursuant to the CARES ACT to conduct this hearing by video conference, no objection by parties. All parties present by video conference.

- ☒ Defendant orally consents to proceed by video conference and waives personal appearance. Defendant signs forms provided to jail. Court also notes anyone who is remotely listening, as it is a public hearing, pursuant to SO 2013-8, this hearing cannot be recorded except by the OCR.
  - ☒ Waiver of Indictment filed.
  - ☒ Felony Information filed.
  - ☒ Plea Agreement filed with court; SOF filed with court.
  - ☒ Initial Appearance. Defendant(s) advised of charges, rights and nature of proceedings.
  - ☒ Defendant arraigned as to Counts 1 and 2.
  - ☒ Defendant placed under oath. Court questions defendant regarding his/her physical and mental condition, and advises defendant of his/her rights, and the nature and possible consequences of plea.
  - ☒ Court accepts Rule c1C plea of guilty.
  - ☒ Guilty plea form executed and filed.
  - ☒ Government summarizes evidence to support plea and rests.
  - ☒ Court finds defendant guilty as charged in Counts 1 and 2.
- OR

**DEFENDANT PLEADS:**  
**(list counts)**

DEF. #	GUILTY	NOT GUILTY	NOLO	REMARKS
1	1,2			
2				
3				
4				

- ☒ Court orders Presentence Report.
- ☒ Defendant remanded to custody.

☒ Sentencing hearing scheduled for TBD before Judge Urbanski.

Additional Information:

USA represents that the family of the victim does not agree with range of penalty set forth in the plea agreement.